

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2004

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Frist:

We were disappointed to see recent press reports quoting you as saying it is "doubtful" that the Senate will have the opportunity to vote on prescription drug importation legislation this year. Given the urgent need for more affordable medications, we hope that you will reconsider allowing a vote this year on the bipartisan legislation we introduced five months ago, S. 2328, the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act. Our bill makes safety the top priority while allowing for legal prescription drug importation.

You have previously indicated a willingness to allow the Senate to consider legislation this year to allow for drug importation. Various Senate and House committees have held numerous hearings on drug importation over the last several years, and the Senate has voted three times in the past on this issue. We understand that there is limited time remaining in this session of Congress, but we believe that American consumers desperately need the relief from high drug costs that our bill would provide. We hope that you will work with us to schedule our legislation for consideration by the full Senate before we adjourn in October. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senator



Olympia J. Snowe
U.S. Senator

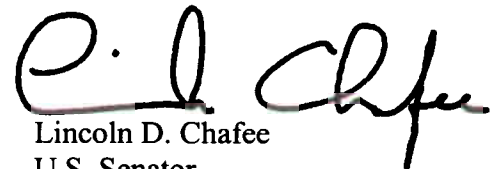


Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senator



John McCain
U.S. Senator

Tom Daschle
U.S. Senator



Lincoln D. Chafee
U.S. Senator